**Fairytales, Folktales, Legends and Myths**

**Elements of a Fairy Tale**

* Special beginning and/or ending words - Once upon a time...and they lived happily ever after.
* Good character
* Evil character
* Royalty and/or a castle usually present
* Magic happens
* Problem and a Solution
* Things often happen in "threes" or "sevens"

**Elements of a Legend**

* A legend, on the other hand, is a story which is told as if it were a historical event, rather than as an explanation for something or a symbolic narrative. Usually not a word for word account, usually embellished over time and changed.

**Elements of a Myth**

* **A myth**  is a sacred [story](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Story) concerning the origins of the world or how the world and the creatures in it came to have their present form. The active beings in myths are generally gods and heroes. The story is timeless in that the events are symbolic rather than just the way it happened.

**Elements of a Folktale**

* A folk tale is a story with no known author. Folk tales are passed down from one generation to another by word of mouth.